

Testimony before CARES Commission Field Hearing at Livermore VA

February 9, 2007

Thank you Chairman Perry and distinguished members of the Advisory Panel for the opportunity to address you today.

I'm proud to be in this room today to share my thoughts on the VA's plan for Livermore. While I do not represent the VA, I do represent the veterans of this country.

I have the utmost appreciation for everything veterans, my son included, have done for this Country and the world.

Veterans are the people who pulled us through two world wars and many other conflicts overseas. They sacrificed for our freedom.

We now have a new generation of veterans that served when called upon. My son Michael signed up for the military when he was 17 years old.

Yesterday, I visited a wounded soldier from Morgan Hill at Walter Reed Army Medical Center who is in line for a liver transplant.

We must show respect to veterans by providing them adequate services and benefits to the men and women who served our country.

We should be expanding, not cutting, veterans' services, and I'm hopeful that the panel will ultimately agree with me.

As we look at future options for the use of Livermore, we must keep in mind that increasing numbers of veterans are returning to the United States.

Many of the soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering from acute physical and mental co

Livermore is in an ideal location to support soldiers returning to life at home. This facility has stood the t

I strongly urge this panel to preserve the Livermore VA, and expand health care options for veterans in t

Again, I thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify here today. I look forward to working with e